

Emergency Preparedness For Business

What to do after the shaking stops

Find out if anyone is injured, dial 9-1-1 and administer first aid until help arrives.

- ✓ **After the shaking stops instruct co-workers or customers to leave the building in an orderly manner.** If your building is undamaged, you do not need to evacuate.
- ✓ **Seek safety outside.** Instruct those leaving your building to move into safe areas away from buildings and other potential hazards.
- ✓ **Expect to find doorways and exit routes blocked.** Have people assigned to clear the exits. Do not use elevators. Make sure fire escapes are safe before using,
- ✓ **Check for fires.**
- ✓ **Check for people who might be trapped.** Check storage rooms and restrooms. Check for people who might require special assistance.
- ✓ **Check for gas leaks, broken water lines or potential chemical hazards.** Turn off utilities if you find a leak. Notify the authorities of chemical hazards.
- ✓ **Rescue financial records and essential supplies from your business if you can do so safely.**
- ✓ **Before sending employees home make arrangements to get back in contact at a later specified time.**
- ✓ **Document property damage as soon as possible.** Make itemized lists and take photographs of damage. Structural damage may require an engineering analysis.
- ✓ **Secure your facility before leaving.**
- ✓ **Expect aftershocks.** Aftershocks can inflict additional damage to weakened structures. Don't put breakable items back in vulnerable places. Be careful when reentering your building if damaged.
- ✓ **Determine the safety of your building.** Develop a prior agreement with a structural engineer to inspect your building immediately after an earthquake.



Washington Military Department,
Emergency Management Division